Request to Archive
With The National Centers for Environmental Information
For URMA archive
Provided by NOAA/NCEP

2016-10-20

This information will be used by NCEI to conduct an appraisal and make a decision on the request.

1. Who is the primary point of contact for this request?
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use email

2. Name the organization or group responsible for creating the dataset.
NOAA/NCEP

3. Provide an overview summarizing the scope of data you want to archive. Describe the outputs, data variables, including their measurement resolution and coverage.
URMA is the UnRestricted Mesoscale Analysis, and is essentially the Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis (RTMA) run 6 hours later to account for latent observation data. URMA analyses are available on four output grids Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and CONUS. Output files are grib2 datasets. The CONUS analysis is at 2.5 km resolution, and the other grids are at 3.0 km resolution, matching the relevant NDFD domains.

Each grid has its own hourly analysis file, and each variable is a message within the grib2 file:
Elevation
Station Pressure
Temperature
Dew Point
Wind Speed
Wind Direction
Wind Gust
Specific Humidity
Visibility
Cloud Cover (CONUS grid only)
Cloud Ceiling Height (CONUS and AK grids only)
Minimum temperature (20Z analysis only, all grids)
Maximum temperature (08Z analysis only, all grids)

4. What is the time period covered by the dataset? (YYYY-MM-DD, YYYY-MM or YYYY)
From 2014-01-28
Ongoing as continuous updates to the data record

5. Edition or version number(s) of the dataset:

N/A

6. Approximate date when the dataset was or will be released to the public:

2014-01-28

7. Who are the expected users of the archived data? How will the archived data be used?

We have had several requests from non-NCEP users for public access to archived URMA data. These include NWS Eastern Region Headquarters and US Army Research Lab at White Sands, UT.

8. Has the dataset undergone user evaluation and/or an independent review process? Did NCEI participate in design reviews?

URMA is an operational NCEP product. It has undergone user reviews from NWS offices since it's inception before it was initially implemented (Jan 2014) and during every subsequent upgrade (every 6-12 months). NCEI has not been part of the review process.

9. Describe the dataset's relationship to other archived datasets, such as earlier versions or related source data. If this is a new version, how does it improve upon the previous version(s)?

URMA is closely related to RTMA, which is already archived at NCEI. URMA runs 6 hours later, allowing for the use of latent observation data not available in RTMA. URMA also includes a daily minimum temperature analysis generated during the 20Z cycle and an maximum temperature analysis generated during the 08Z cycle.

10. List the input datasets and ancillary information used to produce the data.

Input datasets: HRRR, NAM, RAP and surface observations from MADIS and TOC. Low-level satellite-derived winds are also used when available. These are the same input datasets used to produce the RTMA, just with more observations.

11. List web pages and other links that provide information on the data.

https://vlab.ncep.noaa.gov/group/715073/home <-- VLab page for RTMA and URMA. We plan to provide links to documentation and other info through this site. Registration is required, but we understand that it is available to the public.

12. List the kinds of documents, metadata and code that are available for archiving. For example, data format specifications, user guides, algorithm documentation, metadata compliant with a standard such as ISO 19115, source code, platform/instrument metadata, data/process flow diagrams, etc.

1. Data format specifications are the same as those used in the RTMA, which is already archived at NCEI, with on exception: there is an extra grib message at 08Z for daily maximum temperature, and another extra grib message at 20Z for daily minimum temperature.

13. Indicate the data file format(s).

1. GRIB 2

14. Are the data files compressed?

No

15. Provide details on how the files are named and how they are organized (e.g., file_name_pattern_YYYYMM.tar in monthly aggregations).

On the FTP server, files are organized just like the RTMA, only with "UR" replacing "RT."

Under http://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/urma/prod/${domain}.YYYYMMDD

for domain:

"URMA2P5" means CONUS domain.

"AKURMA" means Alaska domain

"PRURMA" means PR domain

"HIURMA" means Hawaii domain

YYYYMMDD is year/month/date of analysis. File name style is the same as used for RTMA.

16. Explain how to access sample data files and/or a file listing for previewing. If it is not available now, when will it be available?

Real-time data can be accessed through the public FTP server: http://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/urma/prod/

Data are in the same general format as RTMA data already archived at NCEI.

17. What is the total data volume to be submitted?

Continuous Data: data volume rate for a continuous data production.

Total Data Volume Rate: 2.5GB per Day

Data File Frequency: 24 per Day

Data Production Start: 2014-01-28

18. Are later updates, revisions or replacement files anticipated? If so, explain the conditions for submitting these additional data to the archive.

No additional updates, revisions or replacement data are anticipated.

19. Describe the server that will connect to the ingest server at NCEI for submitting the data.

Physical Location: College Park, MD

System Name: http://ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov

System Owner: NCEP Central Operations

Additional Information: The same server RTMA and most other NCEP NWP data is pulled
from

20. What are the possible methods for submitting the data to NCEI? Select all that apply.

1. FTP PULL
2. FTP PUSH
3. SFTP PUSH
4. Unidata LDM

21. Identify how you would like NCEI to distribute the data. Web access support depends on the resources available for the dataset.

1. Unknown
2. User interface to order and stage data for download
3. Direct download links

22. Will there be any distribution, usage, or other restrictions that apply to the data in the archive?

No known constraints apply to the data.

23. Discuss the rationale for archiving the dataset and the anticipated benefits. Mention any risks associated with not archiving the dataset at NCEI.

Non-NCEP users have repeatedly requested access to an URMA archive for their own use.

24. Are the data archived at another facility or are there plans to do so? Please explain.

The data are archived on NCEP's HPSS tape archive system, but this is not accessible to the public.

25. Is there an existing agreement or requirement driving this request to archive? Have you already contacted someone at NCEI?

Any agreements/requirements applying to the RTMA would also apply to the URMA. We have been in intermittent contact with NCEI helpdesk about the RTMA archive.

26. Do you have a data management plan for your data?

Unsure. Data management plan would be the same used for RTMA.

27. Have funds been allocated to archive the data at NCEI?

No

28. Identify the affiliated research project, its sponsor, and any project/grant ID as applicable.

N/A

29. Is there a desired deadline for NCEI to archive and provide access to the data?

No deadlines for archive or access.

30. Add any other pertinent information for this request.

None